



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 10, 2008

**FAR WEST SKI ASSOCIATION CONDUCTS
ANNUAL CONVENTION IN BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON**

BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON: The Far West Ski Association conducted its 76th Annual Convention and Meeting June 6-8, 2008 at the Westin Bellevue and Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington, hosted by the Northwest Ski Club Council. The Far West Ski Association, founded in 1930, is a non-profit organization representing 180 affiliated ski clubs located throughout eleven regional councils in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Association conducts active programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski heritage, athletics, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry, and community outreach. In addition to the 200 ski club delegates attending the annual meeting, about 120 ski and sports industry representatives participated in the weekend's events.

The 23rd Annual Silent Auction on Friday evening raised over \$45,000 to support FWSA programs. The highest bidders purchased ski trips, golf and adventure trips, sports and recreational equipment. Saturday morning's Travel Expo enabled industry representatives to meet with travel decision makers from the Association's clubs and councils. Saturday afternoon was dedicated to a presentation by John Aalberg, a 2 time Olympian, from the Whistler 2010 Olympic Organizing Committee and both Public Affairs and leadership panels. Rob Iwamoto, Forest Supervisor for the Snoqualmie National Forest was the key presenter in the Public Affairs panel. Far West Race Association held their annual meeting and selected Northstar-at-Tahoe the site for the 2009 Championships on April 3-5. Bids were presented to the FWSA Travel Committee for selection of the 2010 FWSA Ski Week with the result to be announced later in the summer. The 2009 FWSA Ski Week January 19-26 is to Big Sky, Montana.

Annual recognition awards were presented to members of the ski industry, media, volunteers, racing leagues, councils, and ski clubs. Industry Awards were presented to: (1) the Tommi Tyndall Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Contribution, to Vail Resorts; (2) the Bill Mackey Award for Outstanding Ski Industry Employee, to Cyd Heatherly of SnowBasin; and (3) the Jimmie Heuga Award for Outstanding Humanitarian, to Tom Peirce of the United States Adaptive Recreation Center. The Bill Berry Awards were presented to Chris Davenport for Feature Article for his book "Ski the 14ers"; to Walt Roessing for Hard News; and Warren Miller Media award to The Documentary Group/Sony Pictures for the movie "Steep". A new Snowsports Builder Award was presented to Harry Leonard and Jerry Simon, the founders of the traveling ski shows.

Donn Bryant of Sierra Council received the Hans Georg Award for long-term service to the Association. Other volunteers receiving recognition awards included: (1) the Elizabeth "Schatzi" Wood Award as Woman of the Year, to Mary Olhausen of Northwest Ski Club Council; (2) the

J Stanley Mullin Award as Man of the Year, to Arleigh Meiners of Arizona Ski Council; (3) the Jordan-Reily Award for Outstanding Contribution to Public Affairs, to Rich Marriott of the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center; (4) the Councils' Woman of the Year Award to Sheri Parshall of Northwest Ski Club Council; the Councils' Man of the Year Award to Dennis Heffley of the Bay Area Council. Top honors in contributions to racing included the Terry Smith Award to Craig Fattel of Bay Area Council Singles League.

The Tollakson Award for the Outstanding Ski Club for Class AAAA was Apres Ski Club and for Class AAA was Mountain High Snowsports Club. The Wentworth Award for the Outstanding Publication was presented to Apres Ski Club (Class AAAA), Mountain High Snowsports Club (Class AAA), Don Diego (Class AA) and to the Unrecables Ski Club (Class A). The Outstanding Website Awards were given to: Bergfreunde Ski Club (Class AAAA); Mountain High Snowsports Club (Class AAA); Fresno Ski Club (Class AA) and to Pacific Rim Ski Club (Class A). The Outstanding Council Publication went to the Bay Area Snow Sports Council and the Outstanding Council Website Award went to the Northwest Ski Club Council. A new Club & Council History Recognition went to Cheryl Riess of North Island Snowdrifters.

Special presentations were made to Randy Salzman of Bay Area Council with the Safety Person of the Year Award, sponsored by Aspen/Snowmass, The Gant Aspen, and Daly Lane Properties. The Western Ski Heritage Award was presented by Billy Kidd, member of National Ski Hall of Fame and Director of Skiing at Steamboat Ski Resort, to Robin Morning, author of the book "Tracks of Passion."

Elections were held at Sunday's General Session. FWSA Officers for 2008-2009 are: President, Randy Lew (Wilsonville, OR); Past President, Mike Sanford (San Diego, CA); Secretary, Debbie Stewart (Visalia, CA); Treasurer, Nancy Kelly (Lodi CA); Chairman Board of Trustees, Steve Coxen (West Linn, OR); VP Communications, Mary Azevedo (Walnut Creek, CA); VP Council Services, Mary Olhausen (Vancouver, WA); VP Marketing, Debbi Kor (Wilsonville OR); VP Membership, Barbara Bryant (Truckee, CA); VP Public Affairs, Scott Bowker (San Jose, CA); VP North American Travel, Gloria Raminha (Houston, TX); VP International Travel, Norm Azevedo (Walnut Creek, CA); VP Racing, Bob Ellis (Truckee CA); Trustees, Fran Long (Paso Robles, CA); Linda Westlund (Scottsdale, AZ), and Jane Wyckoff (Irvine, CA).

The Far West Ski Association is appreciative of the many sponsors who are a big part of the success of the FWSA Annual Convention. Sponsors included: Aspen / Snowmass; Big Sky Resort; Big White Ski Resort & Silver Star Mountain Resort, BC Canada; Grouse Mountain Lodge, MT; Mammoth Mountain; Mt Bachelor; Pyramid Breweries; Ski Alpine Xperience; Ski Banff Lake Louise Sunshine; Ski.com; Ski Dazzle; Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.; Sun Valley Resort; Telluride Ski Resort; Vail Resorts - Heavenly, Vail, Breckenridge, Beaver Creek, Keystone; Whistler / Blackcomb; Whitefish Mountain Resort; and Northwest Ski Club Council.

The 77th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention is scheduled for June 4-7, 2009 at the Peppermill Hotel Casino in Reno, Nevada. For additional information regarding the Far West Ski Association, please visit fwsa.org .